

What Is Claimed Is:

1 1. An information search and retrieval process using
2 geographical coordinates, which process comprises:

3 building an index of coordinates for a plurality of text
4 based references, resources or sites, each having a set of said
5 coordinates;

6 accepting a user inquiry containing a text reference;
7 converting said text reference specified in said user
8 inquiry to a set of coordinates;

9 searching against said index of coordinates based on the
10 converted coordinates of said user inquiry reference; and

11 returning all information retrieved from said searching
12 in a text based format.

1 2. An information search and retrieval process as set forth
2 in Claim 1 wherein said references, resources or sites each refers
3 to travel references, such as hotels.

1 3. An information search and retrieval process as set forth
2 in Claim 1 wherein said text based references, resources and sites
3 are obtained from documents in a file.

1 4. An information search and retrieval process as set forth
2 in Claim 3 including a plurality of said files such as the World
3 Wide Web.

1 5. / An information search and retrieval process as set forth
2 in Claim 4 including the additional step of retrieving the location
3 of said documents from those identified in said searching.

1 6. An information search and retrieval process as set forth
2 in Claim 1 wherein said index of coordinates comprise latitude and
3 longitude coordinates.

1 7. An information search and retrieval process as set forth
2 in Claim 1 including the additional step of searching against the
3 coordinates index based on proximity to said user inquiry set of
4 coordinates.

1 8. An information search and retrieval process as set forth
2 in Claim 1 including the additional step of expanding the
3 coordinates in the event that references are not returned from the
4 initial searching.

1 9. An information search and retrieval process as set forth
2 in Claim 1 including the additional step of updating the coordinate
3 index with additional documents.

1 10. An information search and retrieval process as set forth
2 in Claim 3 including the additional step of updating said index of
3 coordinates with additional references, resources or sites.

1 11. An information search and retrieval process as set forth
2 in Claim 1 wherein said step of accepting a user inquiry and
3 converting said text reference includes checking multiple entries
4 for place names.

1 12. A geographical coordinates information search and
2 retrieval system which comprises:

3 an index of coordinates for a plurality of text based
4 references, resources or sites, each having a set of said
5 coordinates;

6 means to accept a user inquiry containing a text
7 reference;

8 a set of coordinates for said user inquiry text reference
9 converted from said text reference; and

10 means to search against said coordinates index for said
11 inquiry set of coordinates and to return information retrieved from
12 said search.

1 13. A geographical coordinates information search and
2 retrieval system as set forth in Claim 12 wherein said text based
3 references, resources or sites are obtained from documents in a
4 file.

1 14. A geographical coordinates information search and
2 retrieval system as set forth in Claim 13 wherein said means to
3 return information retrieved includes return of the location of
4 said documents to said user.

1 15. A geographical coordinates information search and
2 retrieval system which comprises:

3 a plurality of documents from a source file or source files
4 such as the world wide web;

5 a geographical index containing text based references,
6 resources or sites, each cross-referenced to a set of coordinates;
7 and

8 a document index categorized by said coordinates with cross
9 references to said text based references, resources, or sites.

1 16. A geographical coordinates information search and
2 retrieval system as set forth in claim 15 wherein said geographical
3 index is stored on a database connected to a central processing
4 unit.

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